

1 **1.** (currently amended) A method of providing continuing medical education credit to a first
2 physician for a consultation between the first physician and who has been engaged in a
3 ~~consultation with~~ a second physician, the consultation being conducted via-through an
4 intermediary, the intermediary being connected by a telecommunications system to both
5 the first and second physicians, and
6 the method comprising the steps performed in the intermediary of:
7 receiving a comment made with regard to the consultation via the telecommunications
8 system from the second physician in the intermediary; and
9 providing the comment to a medical information specialist in the intermediary who is
10 neither the first nor the second physician, the medical information specialist providing ~~the~~ any
11 continuing medical education credit resulting from the consultation represented by the comment
12 by recording the resulting continuing medical education credit ~~based at least on the comment~~ in a
13 database accessible from the intermediary.

1 **2.** (previously presented) The method of providing continuing medical education credit set forth
2 in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:
3 retrieving instructional material relevant to the comment and the consultation from the
4 data base and
5 providing the instructional material to the first physician via the telecommunications
6 system,

the step of retrieving instructional material being performed by the medical information specialist.

3. (original) The method of providing continuing medical education credit set forth in claim 2 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

providing an examination based on at least the instructional material via the telecommunications system;

receiving answers for the examination from the first physician via the telecommunications system;

grading the received answers; and

if the first physician passes the examination, providing the continuing medical education credit.

4. (original) The method of providing continuing medical education credit set forth in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

providing an examination based on at least the comment to the first physician via the telecommunications system;

receiving answers for the examination from the first physician via the telecommunications system;

grading the received answers; and

if the first physician passes the examination, providing the continuing medical education credit.